

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

261239Z Jan 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 000412

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: NATO CENTER OF EXCELLENCE-DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM

1. Summary: In an effort to gain alliance contribution for its new Center of Excellence - Defense Against Terrorism (CoE-DAT), the Turkish General Staff (TGS) on January 10 briefed NATO embassies in Ankara on the center and sent letters from MOD Gonul and CHOD GEN Ozkok to their counterparts. A manning conference is planned for the last week of February, either in Ankara or at Allied Command Transformation (ACT) in Norfolk. TGS highlighted the US contribution to the CoE-DAT and noted that the UK had also agreed in principle to contribute personnel. Turkey plans to use this center to provide training to Iraqi senior military leaders as the GOT's contribution to NATO's training mission for Iraq. End Summary.

2. TGS/J3 Training Division Chief MajGen Cihangir Aksit hosted a briefing on the Center of Excellence - Defense against Terrorism (CoE-DAT) at the Turkish Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Center Headquarters for NATO member embassies in Ankara January 10, 2005. Representatives of over a dozen embassies attended. PfP Training Center commander COL Bakkal briefed on the establishment of a CoE-DAT and how it would help facilitate international cooperation against terrorism. Aksit explained that Turkey was providing this briefing to NATO embassies in an effort to expand the discussion of the CoE-DAT beyond military circles.

3. The basic structure of the CoE-DAT consists of a director (most likely an active duty or retired Turkish general officer), a Deputy Director (US Navy Captain), Political Advisor, and a Council of Science. The staff of approximately 82 will consist of about 30 percent civilians and 70 percent military personnel. They will be organized into several directorates, including the Directorate of Academics, Directorate of Education & Training, Legal Office, Liaison Office and the Council of Science. Within these directorates will be numerous functional offices, including an intelligence cell under the Council of Science. Turkey is planning to contribute approximately 64 percent of the staffing, but is prepared to provide less if sufficient offers from other countries are received.

4. Instruction will be at the "strategic and operational, not tactical, level." Thus, most of the courses will be conducted in classrooms. Instructors will mainly be experts from outside the CoE-DAT who will be contracted to teach specific courses, although other Turkish military institutions may offer CoE-DAT courses at their own facilities as they currently do for the PfP Training Center. The curriculum will be subject to continuous review and development relying heavily on "customer" feedback. Aksit emphasized repeatedly how the success of the center would depend on providing value-added to "customers." While all allies and NATO partners would be the center's customers, ACT would be the first among them, according to Aksit.

5. Aksit and Bakkal expressed appreciation to the US for making available on a part-time basis an Army major (currently assigned as liaison at Turkey's Training and Doctrine Command) and for promising to provide a Navy captain who will be the deputy director of the CoE-DAT. Bakkal stated that the UK had also indicated it would contribute personnel to the center, but London had not yet provided details on numbers and functions.

6. The center was building relations with Turkish and international institutions, both private and public, and was actively exploring cooperation with the following institutions:

- Joint Special Forces University/USA
- Counter Terrorism Fellowship Programme/USA
- Center for Military Relations/USA
- George Marshall Center for Security Studies in Europe/USA-Germany
- Institute of Contemporary Internal Relations/China

7. The CoE-DAT plans to utilize both open and classified materials, although access to the latter would be subject to NATO security MOUs. The briefer stated that all Alliance members would be invited to contribute information to the various terrorism databases the center planned to compile. When asked if intelligence from Turkish civilian agencies would be included among these sources, the briefer became

evasive. In a subsequent private conversation, a GOT official informed PolMilCouns that the Turkish National Intelligence Organization (MIT) and the Turkish National Police have been invited to send liaison officers.

18. A Manning Conference is planned for the last week of February, 2005. TGS hoped that it might be held in Norfolk at ACT. If that were not possible, it could be held in Ankara.

19. The first planned course for NATO/PfP personnel, "Defense Against Suicide Bombing," is scheduled for March 14-18, 2005. Although TGS does not expect the CoE-DAT to be fully operational until June 2005, Turkey offered training at the center to Iraqi Security Force leaders (general and flag officers) on crowd and riot Control and on internal security. Iraq declined, explaining that it cannot send personnel out of the country for training before the January 30 elections.

EDELMAN